

## Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 01744 311159Z

46

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-10

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1744

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR NATO PO

SUBJ: BELGIAN AND CANADIAN DELEGATIONS REPORT SUBSTANCE OF  
THEIR GOVERNMENTS' DEMARCHES IN LISBON

1. BELGIAN NATO AMBASSADOR (DE STAERCKE) HAS DISTRIBUTED TO  
SYG LUNS AND TO "OTHER ALLIES WHO HAVE CONSULTED ON THE MATTER"  
A BRIEF REPORT CONCERNING MARCH 25 INSTRUCTIONS FOR A DEMARCHE  
BY THE BELIGAN AMBASSADOR IN LISBON. FOLLOWING IS MISSION'S  
TRANSLATION OF THAT REPORT. BEGIN TEXT:

THE BELGIAN AMBASSADOR IN LISBON ON MARCH 25 RECEIVED IN-  
STRUCTIONS TO UNDERTAKE A DEMARCHE TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC OR TO THE PRIME MINISTER WITH A VIEW TO ACQUAINTING  
HIM, IN MODERATE BUT FRANK TERMS, WITH THE CONCERNS OF BELGIUM.

THE AMBASSADOR WAS INSTRUCTED TO RECALL THE SYMPATHY WITH  
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PAGE 02 NATO 01744 311159Z

WHICH THE CHANGE IN THE PORTUGUESE REGIME WAS GREETED, AND  
THE EEC'S OPENING OF A DIALOGUE ON MEANS OF AIDING THE YOUNG  
DEMOCRACY TO CONFRONT THE ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES THAT IT RISKED  
ENCOUNTERING. BELGIUM WISHES TO SEE MORE AND MORE INTEGRATED

INTO THE WESTERN EUROPE OF WHICH IT IS PART A PORTUGAL WHICH HERSELF DEFENDS AND PRACTICES HUMAN AND POLITICAL LIBERTIES.

THE AMBASSADOR WAS ASKED TO SAY HOW MUCH BELGIUM DESIRES THAT THE DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTION BEGUN IN PORTUGAL LAST APRIL WILL BE CONFIRMED AND CONSOLIDATED. BELGIUM WISHES TO BE ABLE TO GREET WIDELY A PORTUGAL THUS RESTORED IN THE WESTERN EUROPE TO WHICH SHE HISTORICALLY AND CULTURALLY BELONGS AND IN WHICH SHE HAS THE BEST CHANCE OF SECURING HER FUTURE. END TEXT.

2. CANADIAN DEPUTY PERMREP (ROY) HAS DISTRIBUTED TO SY LUNS AND CERTAIN OTHER ALLIES UNDER COVER OF A LETTER DATED MARCH 27, 1975, THE TEXT OF REMARKS WHICH THE CANADIAN AMBASSADOR IN LISBON WAS INSTRUCTED TO MAKE IN A DEMARCHE "TODAY" TO THE NEW PORTUGUESE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HERewith THE TEXT OF THE CANADIAN TALKING POINTS: BEGIN TEXT:

CANADA, LIKE OTHER NATO ALLIES AND MANY OTHER COUNTRIES, WELCOMED EVENTS IN PORTUGAL LAST YEAR WHICH REMOVED AN AUTHORITARIAN REGIME AND REPLACED IT WITH ONE PLEDGED TO IMPLEMENT DECOLONIZATION AND TO BRING ABOUT A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE.

CANADA HAS BEEN PLEASED BY THE COMMENDABLE WAY IN WHICH THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT HAS IMPLEMENTED ITS POLICY OF DECOLONIZATION.

CANADA HAS WELCOMED THE PUBLIC AFFIRMATIONS OF THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING THE MOST RECENT ONE, TO THE EFFECT THAT PORTUGAL INTENDS TO ABIDE BY AND MEET ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER TREATIES AND INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS TO WHICH PORTUGAL IS A PARTY.

CANADA ALSO TOOK SATISFACTION AT THE RECENT CONFIRMATION OF THE INTENTION OF THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT TO HOLD ELECTIONS FOR A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY. IT IS THE FERVENT HOPE OF THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT THAT THE PORTUGUESE ELECTORATE WILL BE ABLE TO EXPRESS FREELY THEIR POLITICAL PREFERENCES IN THIS ELECTION. IF FREE CHOICE WERE INHIBITED OR PREVENTED IT COULD NOT HELP BUT AFFECT ADVERSELY PORTUGAL'S PUBLIC IMAGE AND PORTUGAL'S RELATIONS WITH ITS CLOSEST FRIENDS AND ALLIES. CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NATO 01744 311159Z

SIMILARLY ANY ATTEMPT TO CHANGE PORTUGAL'S INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION OF THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE COULD NOT HELP BUT AFFECT THE ATTITUDE OF PORTUGAL'S ALLIES AND THE PROCESS OF DETENTE.

IT IS BECAUSE WE DESIRE TO CONTINUE TO FOSTER BILATERAL RELATIONS AND FRIENDLY COOPERATION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE THAT CANADA HAS DECIDED TO EXPRESS THESE VIEWS TO THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT. END TEXT. PEREZ

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